PROGRAMMABLE LOGIC ANALYZER DATA ANALYZING METHOD

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention:

The present invention relates to logic analyzers and, more specifically, to a programmable logic analyzer data analyzing method, which enables the waveform data of the test sample to be fetched by a logic analyzer and then transmitted to the display screen of a computer for display, so that the user can use the displayed data to make debugging data analysis, comparison data analysis and search data analysis, to store the analyzed data in the form of a file, or to print out the analyzed data through a printer.

2. Description of the Related Art:

A regular logic analyzer can simply fetch data from the test digital circuit (for example, an integrated circuit) for display on a display screen, and for further visual analysis by a man. When designing a logic analyzer, the designer may consider the factors of (1) depth of memory, (2) speed of data fetching, (3) capability of triggering, and (4) stability (anti-noise capability). According to conventional techniques, it is difficult to achieve a breakthrough. Following fast development of high technology, the limited functions of conventional logic analyzers cannot meet the requirements of programming engineers. Programming engineers

require high performance analyzer to help developing advanced products. Current logic analyzer can simply test specific items but not all products of same category. For example, a logic analyzer for testing a USB communication interface cannot be used to test other communication interface such as RS0232. Due to this drawback, a programming engineer may have to prepare various logic analyzers for different test purposes.

Therefore, it is desirable to provide a programmable logic analyzer data analyzing method that provides a complete series of functions including testing, debugging, and analyzing functions.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention has been accomplished under the circumstances in view. According to one embodiment of the present invention, the programmable logic analyzer data analyzing method comprises the step of controlling a control circuit to fetch waveform data from the test sample and to store fetched waveform data in a memory, the step of controlling the control circuit to transmit the waveform data from the memory to a computer through a transmission interface when the memory space of the memory used up (fully occupied), the step of driving the computer to write the received waveform data in a buffer thereof, and the step of running a test sample test signal auxiliary analyzing procedure for enabling the user to use the displayed on the display screen of the

computer for making debugging data analysis, comparison data analysis and search data analysis, to store the analyzed data in the form of a file, or to print out the analyzed data through a printer.

According to another embodiment of the present invention, the programmable logic analyzer data analyzing method comprises the step of controlling a control circuit to fetch waveform data from the test sample and to store fetched waveform data in a memory, the step of writing the waveform data in a buffer when the memory space of the memory used up (fully occupied), the step of driving the control circuit to transmit the waveform data from the buffer to a display, and the step of running a test sample test signal auxiliary analyzing procedure for enabling the user to make data analyses based on the data received from the memory by the computer and displayed on a display screen of the computer.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1A is a circuit block diagram of a logic analyzer according to the present invention.

FIG. 1B is a circuit block diagram of an alternate form of the logic analyzer according to the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a flow chart of the present invention.

FIG. 3 is a flow chart of the test sample waveform quality analysis according to the present invention.

FIG. 3A is a flow chart of the output logic analysis of the

waveform quality analysis according to the present invention.

FIG. 3B is a flow chart of the waveform bandwidth analysis of the waveform quality analysis according to the present invention.

FIG. 3C is a flow chart of the comparison data analysis of the waveform quality analysis according to the present invention.

FIG. 3D is a flow chart of the input forbidding analysis of the waveform quality analysis according to the present invention.

FIG. 3E is a flow chart of the search data analysis of the waveform quality analysis according to the present invention.

FIG. 4 is a flow chart of the communication protocol analysis according to the present invention.

FIG. 4A is a flow chart of the debugging data analysis of the communication protocol analysis according to the present invention.

FIG. 4B is a flow chart of the search data analysis of the communication protocol analysis according to the present invention.

FIG. 5 is a flow chart of the memory data analysis according to the present invention.

FIG. 5A is a flow chart of the read write data analysis of the memory data analysis according to the present invention.

FIG. 5B is a flow chart of the comparison data analysis of

the memory data analysis according to the present invention.

FIG. 5C is a flow chart of the search data analysis of the memory data analysis according to the present invention.

FIG. 6A is a circuit block diagram of another alternate form of the logic analyzer according to the present invention.

FIG. 6B is a circuit block diagram of still another alternate form of the present invention.

FIG. 7 is a schematic drawing showing the display of the communication protocol display window according to the present invention.

FIG. 8 is a schematic drawing showing the display of the memory data display window according to the present invention.

FIG. 9 is a schematic drawing showing the display of the logic analyzer control display window according to the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to FIG. 1A, a logic analyzer **10** in accordance with the present invention comprises a control circuit **11**, a transmission interface **12**, a memory **13**, and a compressor **16**. The control circuit **11** is connected to the test sample **14** through an implement (not shown). The transmission interface **12** is connected to a host computer **15**. The control circuit **11** reads in test data from the test sample **14**, and then sends obtained test data to the

compressor **16** for compression, for enabling compressed data to be further stored in the memory **13**. When the memory space of the memory **13** used up (fully occupied by storage data), the control circuit **11** transmits compressed storage data from the memory **13** to the computer **15** through the transmission interface **12** for decompression by the computer **15** and for display on the display screen of the computer **15** after decompression.

FIG. 1B shows an alternate form of the logic analyzer **10**. According to this alternate form, the control circuit **11** obtains test data from the test sample **14**, and then directly stores obtained test data in the memory **13**. When the memory space of the memory **13** used up (fully occupied by storage data), the control circuit **11** retrieves storage test data from the memory **13** and sends retrieved storage test data to the compressor **16** for compression, and then drives the transmission interface **12** to transmit compressed test data from the compressor **16** to the computer **15** for decompression by the computer **15** and for display on the display screen of the computer **15** after decompression.

With reference to FIGS. 1A and 1B again, when the logic analyzer **10** received a test sample data sheet inputted by the user or when the user selected the code number of the test sample from the database, the control circuit **11** of the logic analyzer **10** fetches waveform data from the test sample **14**, and then stores fetched

waveform data in the memory **13**, and then drives the transmission interface **12** to transmit storage waveform data from the memory **13** to the computer **15** when the memory space of the memory **13** used up (fully occupied by storage data). Upon receipt of waveform data from the data analyzer **10**, the computer **15** fills the data in a buffer, and then transmits the data from the buffer to the display screen for display. Thereafter, a test sample (digital circuit) test signal auxiliary analyzing procedure **100** is performed. This test sample test signal auxiliary analyzing procedure **100** includes waveform quality analysis **20**, communication protocol analysis **30**, and memory data analysis **40**. Thus, the user can use the data displayed on the display screen of the computer **15** to run debugging data analysis, comparison data analysis and search data analysis, or store analyzed data in the form of a file or print out analyzed data through a printer.

Referring to FIG. 3 and FIG. 2 again, the waveform quality analysis **20** of the test sample test signal auxiliary analyzing procedure **100** works subject to the steps bellows:

(200) Input test signal;

(201) Make a logic comparison with the data base to see if the inputted test signal meets feature specification;

(202) Output logic analysis; at this time, proceed to step (202A) to determine if output waveform logic fits the specification or

not? And then terminate the analysis action if positive (see FIG. 3A), or proceed to step (202B) to mark the waveform display zone with another color and then terminate the analysis action if negative (see FIG. 3A and also FIG. 9);

(203) Waveform bandwidth analysis; at this time, proceed to step (203A) to determine if the waveform bandwidth fits the specification or not? And then terminate the analysis action if positive (see FIG. 3B), or proceed to step (203B) to mark the waveform display zone with another color and then terminate the analysis action if negative (see FIG. 3B and also FIG. 9);

(204) Comparison data analysis; at this time, proceed to step (204A) to input test signal again, and then to step (204B) to let the user select the data for comparison, and then to step (204C) to mark the currently analyzed waveform data in the waveform display zone with another color, and then terminate the analysis action (see FIG. 3C and FIG. 9);

(205) Input forbidding analysis; at this time, proceed to step (205A) to determine if input waveform logic fits the specification or not? And then terminate the analysis action if positive, or proceed to step (205B) to mark the waveform display zone with another color if negative (see FIG. 3D and also FIG. 9);

(206) Search data analysis; at this time, proceed to step (206A) where the user selects a waveform from the waveform display

zone (see FIG. 9), the communication protocol display window (see FIG. 7) skips to the communication protocol content corresponding to the selected waveform, and the analysis action is terminated after the marking of another color (see FIG. 3E);

(207) Display analyzed waveform data on the waveform display zone (see FIG. 9);

(208) Store the waveform data in the form of a file or not? And then proceed to step (209) if positive, or terminate the analysis action if negative;

(209) Store the waveform data in the form of a file, and then terminate the analysis action.

With reference to FIGS. 2 and 4, the communication protocol analysis **30** of the test sample test signal auxiliary analyzing procedure **100** works subject to the steps bellows:

(300) Convert waveform analysis data into letters, numerals, or signs to show the communication protocol content;

(301) Make a logic comparison with the database to see if it fits the specification or not;

(302) Debugging data analysis; at this time, proceed to step (302A) to determine if the waveform bandwidth fits the specification or not? And then proceed to step (302B) if positive, or to step (302D) if negative; when entered step (302B), it converts the

data into communication protocol content, and then proceeds to step (302C) to terminate of the communication protocol contents fits the specification or not? And then terminate the analysis action if positive, or proceed to step (302D) to convert the data into error message and then terminate the analysis action if negative (see FIG. 4A);

(303) Search data analysis; at this time (see also FIG. 4B), proceed to step (303A) where the user selects a communication protocol content from the communication protocol display zone (See FIG. 7), the waveform display zone (See FIG. 9) and the memory data display window (see FIG. 8) skip to the waveform and the memory content corresponding to the selected communication protocol content, and the analysis action is terminated after the marking of another color;

(304) Display analyzed communication protocol content on the display zone of the communication protocol display window (See FIG. 7), and then proceed to step (305);

(305) Store the displayed communication protocol content in the form of a file or not? Proceed to step (306) if positive, or terminate the analysis action if negative;

(306) Store the communication protocol content in the form of a file, and terminate the analysis action.

With reference to FIGS. 2 and 5, the memory data analysis

40 of the test sample test signal auxiliary analyzing procedure 100 works subject to the steps bellows:

(400) Use the data of the communication protocol content to duplicate one copy of memory content same as the test sample;

(401) Make a logical comparison with the database to see if it fits the specification or not;

(402) Read write data analysis; at this time (see FIG. 5A), proceed to step (402A) to determine if same address read data and write data are identical or not? And then terminate the analysis action if positive, or proceed to step (402B) to mark the memory data display window with another color and then to terminate the analysis action if negative;

(403) Comparison data analysis; at this time (See FIG. 5B), proceed to step (403A) to input the communication protocol content again, and then proceed to step (403B) to let the user select which data to be compared, and then proceed to step (403C) to mark the currently analyzed memory content on the memory data display window with another color (see FIG. 8), and then terminate the analysis action;

(404) Search data analysis; at this time (see FIG. 5C), proceed to step (404A) where the user selects a data, an address and a data, or an address from the memory data display window

(See FIG. 8), the communication protocol display window (see FIG. 7) skips to the communication protocol content corresponding to the selected data, selected address and data, or selected address, and the analysis action is terminated after the marking of another color;

(405) Display the analyzed memory data on the memory data display window (see FIG. 8);

(406) Store the analyzed memory data in the form of a file? And then proceed to step (407) when positive, or terminate the analysis action when negative;

(407) Store the analyzed memory data in the form of a file, and then terminate the analysis action.

FIG. 6A shows another alternate form of the logic analyzer **10**. According to this design, the logic analyzer **10** is comprised of a control circuit **11**, a memory **13**, a display **17**, and a buffer **18**. The control circuit **11** is connected to the test sample **14** through an implement. During operation, the control circuit **11** reads in test data from the test sample **14**, and then stores obtained test data in the memory **13**. When the memory space of the memory **13** used up (fully occupied by storage data), the control circuit **11** transmits storage data from the memory **13** to the buffer **18**, and then transmits the data from the buffer **18** to the display **17** for display. Further, when the logic analyzer **10** received a test sample data

sheet inputted by the user or a test sample code number selected from the database of the logic analyzer **10** by the user, the control circuit **11** fetches the waveform data from the test sample **14**, and then stores the fetched data in the memory **13**, and then transmits the data from the memory **13** to the buffer **18** when the memory space of the memory used up (fully occupied), and then transmits the data from the buffer **18** to the display **17** for display, and then runs the waveform quality analysis **20**, communication protocol analysis **30** and memory data analysis **40** of the test sample test signal auxiliary analyzing procedure **100** (see FIG. 2). Thus, the user can use the data displayed on the display **17** for making debugging data analysis, comparison data analysis, search data analysis, etc., store the analyzed data in the form of a file, or print out the analyzed data through a printer. This logic analyzer **10** further comprises a compression decompression device **19**, which compresses data obtained by the control circuit **11** from the test sample **14** before storing in the memory **13**, and decompresses the storage data for display on the display **17** when the memory space of the memory **13** used up (fully occupied).

FIG. 6B shows still another alternate form of the logic analyzer **10**. According to this design, the control circuit **11** directly stores the fetched test data from the test sample **14** in the memory **13**, and then drives the compression decompression device

19 to compress the storage data when the memory space of the memory 13 used up (fully occupied), and then stores the compressed data in the buffer 18, and then drives the compression decompression device 19 to decompress the compressed data, and then transmits the decompressed data to the display 17 for display.

According to the embodiments shown in FIGS. 6A and 6B, the capacity of the buffer 18 of the computer 15 or the capacity of the buffer 18 of the logic analyzer 10 varies with the amount of the internal data of the test sample 14.

A prototype of programmable logic analyzer data analyzing method has been constructed with the features of the annexed drawings of FIGS.1~9. The programmable logic analyzer data analyzing method functions smoothly to provide all of the features discussed earlier.

Although particular embodiments of the invention have been described in detail for purposes of illustration, various modifications and enhancements may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. Accordingly, the invention is not to be limited except as by the appended claims.